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HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

Report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development on its second session, New York, 17-22 March 1994

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PREFACE

1. The High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in July 1993 and held its first session in New York on 13 and 14 September 1993. The terms of reference of the Board are in the appendix to annex III below. The names and curricula vitae of the members are in annex IV.

2. At its first meeting the Board decided to focus its initial effort on three broad themes:

(a) Linkages between economic, social and political development in a changing world;

(b) New approaches to finance and technology;

(c) Establishment of new partnerships between the United Nations system and other bodies active in the field of sustainable development.

3. The Board established panels of its members to carry forward work on those themes between its first and second sessions. The panels reported to the Board at its second session in New York on 21 and 22 March 1994. Chapters II, III and IV of the present report are based on their work.

4. The members of the High-level Advisory Board wish to emphasize that this, their first substantive report, is not comprehensive. A deliberate effort has been made to be selective within the broad themes identified and to avoid duplicating the very large volume of work in progress elsewhere, including that in preparation for the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Board has developed a series of comments and propositions, which it now puts forward for consideration.

5. The Board emphasizes that the main theme that runs through these pages is the need for new linkages. They need to run from global through regional and national to subnational institutions. They need to link government to the world of business, industry and commerce, in partnership for technology transfer and cooperation. They need to link the institutions of the United Nations system to one another and to non-governmental entities in the world of science, environment, sustainable development, humanitarian relief, business, industry and commerce, labour, and many other sectors of society.

6. In its advisory capacity, the Board will, of course, give priority to topics on which the Secretary-General asks for advice. It will be forward-looking, seeking to identify the issues that will be important to the United Nations in the future and providing suggestions as to how they may be addressed. As the Secretary-General has requested, its members will take on a promotional role, building understanding of the immensely diverse work of the United Nations system and seeking to forge new alliances between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and groups outside the system.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

7. This first report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development focuses on linkages. Since peace, development and environmental protection are inseparable, sustainable development will be achieved only if government, the business world, industry, labour, science, and environmental, human rights and citizen's groups work together. New alliances are also needed at the international level, especially between the United Nations and its specialized agencies and a wide range of other bodies.

8. Social, environmental and economic changes are driving societies at an ever-increasing rate towards an uncertain future. Universal information and the emergence of supra-national groupings are rendering national frontiers porous, while within States, demands for devolution to the local level impose other stresses. New approaches to governance, law, and economic and social development are essential. New linkages are needed between economic, social and political processes.

9. The United Nations system needs to promote such linkages in its own machinery. Joint meetings of the Bureaux of its various intergovernmental bodies might be one means of facilitating cooperation. International lawyers might be invited to identify areas where international legislation is most urgently needed and to propose appropriate machinery for the settlement of disputes. The annual report of the Secretary-General might specifically address two or three emerging issues and the linkages between them, and those issues could create a focus for the High-level Segment of the General Assembly, which might also include informal, interactive panel sessions.

10. Governments and international organizations have much to contribute. There is need to reach early agreement on an appropriate, comprehensive and balanced set of indicators of sustainable development and to use them to monitor progress. Governments should also examine how to apply general principles like the "polluter pays principle" in national and international regulations, taking steps to ensure that where such action threatens to add to the burdens of the poor, compensatory mechanisms are adopted. Transferable development rights, international commodity-related environmental agreements, and tradeable emission permits are other technical instruments whose value and application should be considered. And where changes in environmental or social circumstances cause international movements of people, new policies to deal with them in a fair, expeditious and efficient way should be developed.

11. New approaches to finance and technology are also needed. The primary role of the governmental and intergovernmental communities is to create a framework of conditions which facilitate the development and adoption of environmentally sound technology and ensure that markets are guided towards solutions which are both socially and environmentally appropriate. Governments should create conditions in which business can flourish, because technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises work best under such conditions.

12. If the right mix of regulation and economic incentives is provided by Governments, expenditure on controlling environmental pollution should reduce overall costs to the countries concerned. Foreign investments should help

improve environmental quality in the recipient countries. International minimum environmental standards should be developed by cooperation between Governments, multilateral organizations, business and non-governmental organizations.

13. Sustainable development may demand investment which is paid back only over a long time scale. Its finance may require new and innovative partnerships between Governments, international financial institutions and the business sector. Such partnerships require changes in attitudes and procedures among all the partners concerned. And Governments need to continue to provide official development assistance for technology transfer and cooperation, even if investment by the business sector is stimulated.

14. New partnerships are also needed between the United Nations system and other bodies active in the field of sustainable development. Partnerships, in this sense, are relationships which help both partners to advance their missions. Non-governmental entities (including local authorities, labour and business organizations, scientific, economic, humanitarian and environmental bodies and citizens' groups) have the potential to contribute much expertise and can greatly assist in the work of Governments and the United Nations system.

15. At the national level, Governments can greatly enhance their own ability to achieve sustainable development and contribute to United Nations activity by developing partnerships with their own non-governmental communities. Direct links between non-governmental entities and the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies could greatly assist the latter in their work. Consultative forums between United Nations bodies and non-governmental entities, and especially coalitions with particular expertise, should be considered. The United Nations should enhance its capacity to build such partnerships with non-governmental entities and to reflect their views in its documents. These matters should be considered by the working group reviewing the relationships between the United Nations and non-governmental entities, defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

16. The United Nations system can do much to catalyse a participatory approach throughout the world. Besides building its own links with non-governmental entities, the United Nations can develop and promulgate models of successful partnership, emphasizing the need for flexibility, practicality, adaptability, cost-effectiveness and accountability. It can support training, information flow and the promotion of awareness, and capacity-building. In parallel, the non-governmental community can enhance its capacity to contribute to partnerships with United Nations bodies by, for example, organizing its members into representative coalitions and by inviting United Nations participation in their activities.

17. The United Nations system could do much more to publicize its work for sustainable development. Partnerships with potential commercial sponsors would ensure better distribution of its excellent film material. Partnerships with non-governmental entities could also do much to publicize and promote the work of the United Nations.

II. LINKAGES BETWEEN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD

"Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible."

- Principle 25 of the Rio Declaration

A. General considerations

18. The concept of peace as the absence of war is easy to grasp and has conditioned the way in which the role of the United Nations in peace-keeping operations - embracing peacemaking, peace-keeping and preventive diplomacy - has been regarded. During the Cold War the principal focus was on the avoidance of nuclear war between the nuclear powers, while low-intensity wars which threatened geo-political stability were often controlled by the intervention of the super-Powers. With the end of the Cold War a new situation with different types of conflicts has arisen. The hegemonic Powers have less direct interest in the quick resolution of conflicts and wish others to share the burden of intervention. Thus, the United Nations is asked to be more active. Unfortunately, the Organization often has insufficient resources to be fully effective, and thus the threat of an escalation and broadening of local conflicts arises.

19. Peace, however, is more than non-war; it is a positive value. The notion of peace as a positive concept in the form of institutional pacifism is more complex. It includes both security and the provision of conditions for the fulfilment of life inherent in the free and unimpeded interaction of people on a universal basis. Those conditions involve the economic, social, environmental, and political spheres. Peace-building has to deal with inequities which exacerbate social tensions and threaten an unstable world order. Conflict over natural resources may give rise to civil disorder within States as well as between or among them and may have played a role in the Cambodian conflict. Sustainable development - and international cooperation and assistance to support it - should be seen as an important contribution to conflict avoidance. There are interdependent issues even in peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building since, for example, environmental issues in such sectors as potable water and sanitation, energy, and transportation have to be addressed. Peace-building must also, of course, enhance the capacity of a society to manage conflict; mediation between groups and factions is crucially important. Where the United Nations is involved in peace-keeping, it should continue its efforts for long enough to guide the communities concerned back onto the path towards sustainable development.

20. All societies are buffeted by the winds of change. Powerful forces of globalization (centripetal forces) and of fragmentation (centrifugal forces) are operating simultaneously in the world of today. Each has its own logic involving different actors and interests. The globalization of production by transnational corporations, the globalization of international finance, globalization of information, and large-scale movements of people have not been matched by a corresponding reshaping of political institutions. Prolonged

periods of low commodity prices have had a major impact on the economies of States, especially when they are dependent on a relatively small range of primary commodities. States have responded to these and other changes with varying degrees of effectiveness. As a result, among the countries referred to as developing, several have grown rapidly, transforming their economies substantially, and a few of them have joined the ranks of the industrialized countries. Others, including most sub-Saharan African countries and least developed countries elsewhere, have been unable to organize an effective response and are at risk of becoming further marginalized. In some countries, regrettably, agricultural producers have switched to growing highly lucrative crops for the illegal production of narcotics.

21. The longer-term environmental consequences of the current patterns of economic and demographic change are on the agenda of the international community. Imbalances between population growth and carrying capacity in many States have already led to social instability in many countries, as has the necessity of coping with political and environmental refugees in poor host countries. In the long term, increasing numbers of retired persons relative to those in the active labour force are likely to be a source of financial strain and intergenerational tension. And pressures to liberalize the international labour market may exacerbate international tension.

22. A number of other factors is driving structural change at a rapid pace. The activities of transnational corporations and of enterprises in dynamic economies, together with trade liberalization, have caused major changes in the international division of labour. In the technological arena, robotics and biotechnology, which have begun to lead to a re-engineering of manufacturing and agricultural production processes, point to an ever-shrinking demand for unskilled and even many types of skilled labour in those industrialized countries where the techniques are introduced. At the same time, the demand for workers and managers highly skilled in information technologies can be expected to increase. Although the speed of dissemination of new technologies and that of market penetration by exporters is limited by the rate of growth of capital accumulation, many businesses have not been able to adjust rapidly enough. Educational systems have been slow to adjust as well, leading to a mismatch between the skills needed in the modern economy and those possessed by current members of the labour force and to a fear of ever-growing structural unemployment.

23. Another force shaping the world is the telecommunications and informatics revolution. On the one hand, developments have made possible the globalization of business and finance, mentioned above, and the more efficient organization of the production of goods and services. On the other hand, they produce an unprecedented flow of information which enhances the awareness of violence and a growing public sense of insecurity which provokes a demand for reaction by the political system. The globalization of communications also spreads the cultural values of industrialized countries faster than local cultures and value systems can adapt, thereby increasing social tension. But, again, indigenous peoples have made use of those very same techniques to popularize some of their own cultural values, encouraging "stewardship" and a "transcendental" respect for nature in alliance with environmentally concerned groups.

24. In the political sphere, national frontiers are rendered porous by telecommunications, the growth of scientific activity and knowledge, global or regional actions to protect the environment, and global investment and commerce, while States increasingly decide to yield some of their sovereign prerogatives in political association with others. Many examples come to mind: the European Union (EU), the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA), the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUL), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group (APEC) etc. Within States, fragmentation is of growing concern. The weakening of traditional political authority leads many to question the legitimacy of rule by traditional elites. The lack of an effective means to develop political consensus has led to great difficulties in implementing economic reform programmes which are said to suffer from "weak ownership" in many developing countries.

25. In extreme cases, the backlash to the increasing erosion of state authority in societies hitherto dominated by traditional values takes the form of extreme nationalism, ethnic tribalism, and intolerant religious fundamentalism. Acceptable humanitarian intervention in situations of intolerable national behaviour has become necessary even when the "spillover effects" from dysfunctional States do not directly threaten international order. In many other situations, as economic and social conditions worsen, either because of resurgent nationalism and ethnic and religious tension or because of socio-economic pressure, such as environmental degradation, population pressures and poverty, migratory pressures increase. The consequent cross-border flows of refugees and internal population movements further exacerbate ethnic and communal tension.

26. Many observers trace the growing sense of social alienation to the erosion of religion, ethics, and moral values. Associated with this perception is concern over the weakening of bonds among family members and within small communities and over the increase of crime at the local, national, and international levels.

27. In short, the fundamental problem is the tension between the forces and the logic of globalization and those of fragmentation.

B. Need for new approaches

28. There are several requirements for improved governance of the international system if the concrete realization of an enhanced concept of peace is to be brought about:

(a) An improved process for issue recognition and early warning, especially in situations of sudden crisis, whether it be economic, social, political, environmental or some combination thereof;

(b) Enhanced coordination of existing institutions, reflecting an interdisciplinary concept of security which would, for example, allow a more integrated approach to early warning, crisis and post-crisis management, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(c) Improved procedures for formulating an agenda of practical measures to be agreed upon and implemented by the United Nations system.

The proposals in chapter IV for new partnerships are relevant here.

29. The content of the agenda, however, should reflect an awareness of the linkages between threats to security, broadly defined, and pervasive worldwide inequities. Because the concept of sustainable development is multidimensional - linking development with political, economic, social, environmental and, even, security considerations - it provides a useful framework for dealing with the complexity of such contradictory processes as globalization and fragmentation.

30. The concept of sustainable development underscores the importance of understanding the long-term consequences as well as their short-term ramifications of policies and behaviours that are responses to crises. The Rio Conference and the parallel Global Forum were responses to the mismatch between patterns of development and the requirements of environmental sustainability. The perception of a similar mismatch between patterns of economic, social and political change and the requirements of social stability has resulted in the decision to focus the World Social Summit on the issues of poverty, unemployment, and marginalization. One question that might be considered in that context is whether the ability of society to absorb and defuse social tension can be analysed in a manner analogous to that of carrying-capacity in environmental analysis.

31. Sustainability explicitly recognizes the value of diversity. It requires the internalization of externalities, which is equivalent to a recognition of responsibility. It recognizes that the development of political diversity allows a broad spectrum of the society to participate in the political decision-making process. It calls for the enhancement of broad economic structural diversity to assure harmonious balanced development. It requires the acceptance of ecological diversity to ensure the sustained functioning of ecosystems in long-term development. Sustainability requires a unified approach within which the interdependencies between issues and sectors are taken into account in the design of political, economic and environmental policies.

32. Such a design implies the elaboration of a matrix of policy instruments and objectives, because a policy measure implemented to achieve an objective in one area may have unintended consequences, requiring supplementary policies in other areas. Any application of this technocratic approach should be preceded by an analysis of the carrying capacity of eco-systems and the critical loads of pollution they can tolerate; steps to strengthen the effectiveness of governance, meaning the ways by which sustainable development is managed at the local, national and global levels; and the formulation of a technology policy geared towards enhancing the capacity to choose and to adapt, implicit in major technological shifts and management approaches, rather than only to technology transfer in the traditional meaning of that term.

33. The importance of mutually reinforcing policies can be underscored by noting that, for example, all apparent conflicts between development and the protection of the environment can be traced to six causes:

(a) Government failure - i.e., incentives created by Governments to use the environment wastefully and inefficiently;

(b) Market failure - i.e., failure of prices generated by the market mechanism to reflect fully the costs of production and consumption;

(c) Missing markets - i.e., absence of unenforced property rights for environmental services and therefore a lack of vested interest on the part of economic agents in the sustainable exploitation of natural resources;

(d) Situations in which the income-earning opportunities to which the poor have access are insufficient to sustain life without depleting the stock of natural capital;

(e) Failure to recognize the need for enhancing political, economic and ecological diversity in the process of development;

(f) Scientific ignorance or error, leading to unsustainable practices or the introduction of damaging products.

34. Another response to the challenges facing the international community is to endeavour to extend the rule of law. Both national and international laws seek to promote changes in behaviour. By extending international law, States accept limitations to their competencies in exchange for arrangements which benefit the citizenry of all of them. International legal frameworks may of course provide incentives and disincentives to influence behaviour as well as the more traditional use of prohibitions and commands. Market-based incentives also have much to recommend them since they constitute voluntary rather than coercive mechanisms and are more efficient policy instruments than pure command and control regulatory regimes. The effectiveness of such laws and instruments depends, however, on their acceptability to society at large, and here education and information have a crucial part to play - especially where it is necessary to persuade people to alter their life styles in the interests of sustainable development.

35. Still another response to economic challenges has been for multilateral financial institutions to assist developing countries and economies in transition with the design of structural adjustment programmes and to provide some of the external finance required for their implementation. Developing countries often perceive this as tantamount to the imposition by the donor community of policies which they feel are insufficiently differentiated from one country to another. All too often these programmes fail because they cannot be fully implemented. This points to the need to develop these structural adjustment programmes through a consensus-building process at the national level which will more adequately prepare the different groups affected by them for the sacrifices that will be necessary and which will ensure an appropriate sharing of the burden of adjustment. For the most developed market economies, the discipline of financial markets leads to prudent fiscal management since the prospect of growing budget deficits quickly results in increases in long-term interest rates. For countries in the European Union, the Maastricht agreement requires gradual convergence of fiscal and monetary policies. Also, the adherence of the most developed market economies to agreements to liberalize

trade implies an acceptance on their part of the necessary medium-term structural adjustment which that entails. An important problem remaining, however, is the lack of an effective surveillance mechanism to ensure that the macroeconomic policies of the Group of Seven major industrial countries are designed to take fully into account their impact on the world economy and especially on the developing countries and economies in transition.

C. Recommendations

36. Governments must move beyond the sharing of information to the sharing of resources and joint action. In particular, ways must be found to integrate social, political and demographic issues with issues of international finance, trade, labour and technology. A framework for their integration might be developed by joint meetings of the bureaux of the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. Further recommendations on the development of partnerships between the United Nations system and non-governmental entities are made in chapter IV.

37. The deliberative process at the international level mirrors the division of responsibilities at the national level. For example, international specialized agencies such as FAO, UNIDO, the ILO, WHO, UNESCO, UNEP and GATT have, as their national counterparts, ministries of agriculture, industry, labour, health, education, environment and trade; the IMF and the multilateral financial institutions correspond to central banks and finance or economic ministries; the United Nations itself, especially the General Assembly and the Security Council, has as its national counterpart ministries of foreign affairs. What is lacking is the functional equivalent at the international level of national mechanisms for priority-setting and examination of linkages between sectoral issues performed by the office of the presidency or the cabinet of ministers. As a first step, the innovation of an annual policy report of the Secretary-General could reinforce a trend to use the high-level segment of the General Assembly for this purpose. If so structured and made available in capitals with sufficient lead time, the report could encourage Governments to address, inter alia, two or three pre-defined issues in their addresses to the General Assembly. It should deal with emerging issues and linkages between them. It should also make concrete proposals to Governments as to how best to deal with those linkages in the context of the United Nations system. Dialogue between Heads of State might be further encouraged by compressing the High-level Segment of the General Assembly into a shorter time-frame or, perhaps, by organizing informal forums concurrently.

38. Adequate machinery for producing an evolving set of global rules is not in place. International legal authority is totally fragmented. Yet the use of law and due process is the essence of shared competencies for international cooperation. The General Assembly might consider inviting international lawyers chosen by their countries' Governments to identify issues where global legislation is most urgently needed and to propose appropriate mechanisms for the settlement of disputes. International legal frameworks need to be supplemented by mechanisms for monitoring their implementation and measures to ensure compliance. Raising such issues would seem particularly appropriate in the middle of the Decade of International Law.

39. Indicators for monitoring sustainable development are indispensable; yet it is a complex issue to choose an appropriate, comprehensive, and balanced set of indicators for many purposes, especially cross-sectoral linkages. Among other considerations, indicators that are suitable for monitoring the sustainability of supply or production as well as the sustainability of demand or consumption should be identified. Monitoring the material intensity, energy intensity, and renewable resource content per unit of final use is also highly important.

40. The application of the "polluter pays" principle is important for efficiency, because it ensures that the cost of implementing methods to reduce pollution will be borne by those who inflict the damage. By application of the "polluter pays" principle, considerations of equity and efficiency usually coincide. However, not all policies intended to correct environmental problems by applying the principle help the poor; occasionally, the poor are harmed, and when this occurs, compensating policies should be introduced.

41. Compensating policies should also be considered when other environmental instruments that may disadvantage the poor are negotiated.

42. Transferable development rights are contracts for the sale or leasing of land which specify obligations on the part of the buyer/lessor in respect of conservation and confer rights to use the property in certain limited ways. This device, which is already in use in many countries to ensure the conservation of historical sites, could reduce or eliminate the "missing market" problem associated with the issue of habitat protection. It does so without infringing on national sovereignty, since any country could freely establish the conditions for sale or lease of publicly held lands, thereby generating a revenue stream for the Government. It could also - by publicizing the terms of such agreements and encouraging their proliferation - reduce pressure from environmental lobbies for international conventions which would have a negative impact on national sovereignty.

43. Another idea is to use existing forums of producers and consumers established to negotiate primary commodity agreements to explore introducing environmental safeguards into them. International commodity-related environmental agreements would avoid the problem of loss of competitiveness associated with unilateral internalization of the external costs generated by their methods of production. Such agreements would establish a compensation mechanism by which consuming countries would compensate developing-country producers for costs incurred in producing the particular commodity in a more sustainable way.

44. Still another idea on which a considerable literature is beginning to emerge is that of tradeable emission permits. This device is not a "license to pollute". Rather it is a way to encourage economic agents to determine the least costly way of limiting total emissions to levels established by national regulation or international agreement. This device is often suggested for CO_2 emissions and would need to be negotiated by the parties to the Convention on Climate Change.

45. In order to deal with the challenges posed by international movements of people, Governments should develop fair, efficient and expeditious procedures to

differentiate between those fleeing war and violence and those fleeing poverty. International protection and assistance should be granted to refugees and the internally displaced until they can return home. Economic migrants could be dealt with by liberalizing immigration policies in ways that recognize the demographic patterns and labour needs of the industrialized world as well as the aspirations of poorer countries in the East and South. Capital, trade and technology markets have already been liberalized, and there is a case for liberalizing labour markets as well.

46. To take the linkages between economic, social and political development in a changing world into account would create an entirely new basis for the United Nations system, and this report is intended to be a step in that direction. The Board will continue to work on the theme of linkages and will make additional proposals at a later date. It also recommends a country case-study - in Cambodia or Viet Nam, for example - to test the feasibility of an integrated approach to public policy formulation in the economic, environmental, and social areas and to evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations role in the continuum of peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.

III. NEW APPROACHES TO FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A. General considerations

47. The terms of reference agreed upon by the Board at its first session for its work on new approaches to finance and technology included the consideration of innovative methods of financing and securing resources and technology transfer; the importance of developing and sharing new technology (especially "eco-efficient" processes); and the development of new modes of capacity-building. It was emphasized that the aim was to avoid the damage caused by inappropriate technology transfer, and that South/South and North/South sharing of experience would be of particular value.

48. There have been numerous initiatives in this broad field. The Commission on Sustainable Development established inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working groups on finance and on technology transfer and cooperation. A workshop on the transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies was held in Oslo, Norway, from 13 to 15 October 1993, while a meeting on financial issues and Agenda 21 was convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 2 to 4 February 1994.

49. Key documents, including the Secretary-General's report to the Working Group on Technology Transfer and Cooperation and the Report of that Working Group were made available to the Board. Because of this continuing activity, and not thinking it appropriate to duplicate it, the Board decided to focus its initial effort on new approaches to environmentally sound technology transfer and cooperation, with particular emphasis on the role of the private sector. At a later stage, the Board envisages broadening its analysis, especially into the field of capacity-building. Innovative ways of mobilizing financial and other essential resources - for example, by redeployment from the military to the civilian sectors - may also be considered as a topic for later study.

50. This chapter of the Board's report therefore considers ways in which Government and the business community can cooperate within a framework of appropriate enabling conditions. The aim is to attract private-sector investment for environmentally sound technology and sustainable development. The Board accepts that such an approach must take place within a context of policy and a regulatory framework which guides the market and ensures solutions that are both socially and environmentally appropriate. A balance has to be struck between democratic decisions on social policies and the need for free operation of markets. Such conditions clearly depend on adequate systems of governance in the countries concerned.

51. The Board emphasizes that the process of cooperation between Governments and the business sector to stimulate investment in environmentally sound technology does not remove the need for official development assistance (ODA) to promote sustainable development. The Board endorses the call by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for significant new resources, including ODA, and urges Governments to honour their undertakings in this field.

52. The ability of countries to mobilize domestic resources and to create conditions that attract foreign direct investment varies considerably from region to region; it is particularly weak in much of sub-Saharan Africa and in the least developed countries elsewhere. Technology transfer and cooperation in such countries is likely to depend on ODA; so is support for the introduction of technology for public-sector activities such as waste disposal and the improvement of water supplies.

B. Need for new approaches

53. The transfer of environmentally sound technology 1/ requires a process of cooperation between providers and recipients before, during and after the transfer. For this reason it is more useful to describe the wider process as "environmentally sound technology cooperation".

54. The expertise required for technology transfer and cooperation is being developed in many countries. Governments and enterprises are urged to look throughout the world for the best ideas and creative solutions to meet their needs and solve their problems.

55. Technology transfer and cooperation work best between economic enterprises - those that have a motive to provide new technology and a motive to use it efficiently. Conditions for success include the know-how, operating and maintenance skills of the user and appropriate communications and training on the part of the originator. Companies must continue to adapt and develop the technology during their period of cooperation.

56. Thus, technology cooperation is most successful where business works best. Creating such conditions should be a high priority for Governments. This requires an opening of markets and an appropriate enabling environment in all countries, including macroeconomic, financial, legal, regulatory, and institutional conditions and capacity-building and human resources development.

57. Increased competition will create and expand markets for new environmentally sound technology which, because of its increased efficiency, tends to be cleaner and less wasteful.

58. However, to create a market specifically for cleaner technology, the legal and policy frameworks must be improved and effectively implemented. Such frameworks should include a mix of regulatory and economic instruments, requiring and encouraging companies to be safer, less polluting and more efficient in the use and management of resources.

59. At present, many developing country Governments fear that environmental protection adds to the costs of production by imposing standards that are more stringent than needed. They believe that such protection will deter industrial investments and stunt economic growth. This is one of the reasons why, in many countries, environmental standards are minimal and laws are not enforced. This attitude will change, and is changing, as Governments realize that prevention is usually less costly than clean-up and as trade is seen to favour countries with higher environmental standards.

60. Foreign investments for technology transfer and cooperation can be expected to contribute to the improvement of environmental quality in the recipient countries. One reason is that transnational corporations are increasingly applying similar environmental standards in all countries. Multilateral and bilateral development programmes could be used to encourage compliance with the kinds of international minimum standards which are being developed by organizations such as OECD, the International Chamber of Commerce and the International Standards Organization. Governments, multilateral organizations, businesses and non-governmental organizations should cooperate to develop such international standards.

61. There will remain situations where sustainable development will call for technology cooperation that is not quite commercially justifiable because the payback periods, based on current capital market patterns, are too long to justify the necessary investment. There are also situations where the market and business structure are inadequate. These cases will require innovative new partnerships between Governments and business.

62. Such partnerships may require:

(a) An increased willingness on the part of Governments and development agencies to change their procedures and outlooks to take better account of the realities of business and to see business and industry as natural partners in the overall development cooperation framework;

(b) An increased willingness on the part of Governments, in cooperation with business, to invest in cleaner technologies in the interest both of environmental security and increased competitiveness;

(c) An increased willingness on the part of business corporations to seek economic opportunities in long-term technology cooperation arrangements and a willingness to get involved in the communications, training and education which that requires;

(d) An increased willingness on the part of multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank, regional development banks and United Nations agencies, to play a role in these new government/business partnerships;

(e) An increased willingness on the part of Governments and development agencies to move away from "tied aid" towards more demand-driven technology cooperation.

63. In the present era of trade and business liberalization, such innovative government/business partnerships might form new, mixed public/private companies to promote and provide environmentally sound infrastructure services for industrial parks, particularly in developing countries. This would greatly help municipal authorities to provide for rapidly increasing needs for public services.

64. Another form of such partnership might focus on retrofit projects, often involving privatization, to provide new equipment to underperforming operations, making them more commercially viable and eco-efficient. The aim would be to provide industrial facilities in need of upgrading and development with improved environmental and financial performance, through management training and increasing productivity. Target facilities would typically be process plants involved in energy, cement, ferrous/non-ferrous metals, chemicals and fertilizers.

65. A well-conceived enabling framework for private-sector investment and a new partnership for development, as described above, offer the best opportunity to produce the new and additional financial resources required to promote technology transfer and cooperation.

C. Recommendations

66. Governments should create conditions in which business can flourish, because technology transfer and cooperation between economic enterprises work best in such conditions.

67. To create a market for cleaner technology, Governments should use a mix of regulatory and economic instruments, requiring and encouraging companies to be safer, less polluting and more efficient in the use and management of resources.

68. Governments, multilateral organizations, businesses and non-governmental organizations should cooperate to develop international minimum environmental standards.

69. In situations where investments in technology cooperation are not commercially attractive because of the long pay-back periods, new and innovating partnerships between government, business, international lending agencies and donor countries are required.

70. Governments should honour undertakings entered into at UNCED to provide additional official development assistance, which is essential even if investment by the business sector is also stimulated.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS 2/ BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES 3/

A. General considerations

71. The United Nations system, either alone or in alliance with Governments, cannot achieve sustainable development. There is a substantial community consisting of non-governmental entities that need to be accepted into partnership with the United Nations system and/or with Governments in order to enhance progress towards sustainable development.

72. The concept of "partnership" is a broad one and can apply to many kinds of relationships between entities. Ordinarily, a partnership implies a relationship during which a decision or consensus on an issue or action in pursuit of a common objective can be envisaged. However, in the present context, the concept of "partnership" must be extended to working relationships during which, although no such decision or consensus may be expected, there is, as a result of that relationship, an increased awareness on the part of either or both entities of possible perspectives or approaches.

73. Such partnerships between the United Nations system and non-governmental entities are necessary because the latter have special knowledge, active memberships and a capacity to build awareness and promote action, enabling the United Nations system internationally, and Governments nationally, to provide a framework for action and to coordinate and develop governance mechanisms, laws, economic planning and strategies for advancing the process of sustainable development.

74. Partnerships should bring all sectors together in a common understanding of what is needed, and then advance implementation. They have to promote the central message of Rio - that environment and development are inseparable. The non-governmental community should be fully involved in the process, in fulfilment of a duty to cooperate in the protection of the planetary environment, in the spirit of sustainable development.

75. An apprehension is often voiced in regard to the mushrooming growth of non-governmental entities and the difficulties in determining which of them should be considered for partnership with the United Nations system. The entities concerned are perceived as differing widely in stature, professionalism and financial accountability. One manner in which the difficulty can be overcome is for Governments to resort to domestic legislation for registration of such entities, requiring them to disclose their constitutions and the aims and objects for which they have been constituted and to submit financial statements regularly. Such legislation exists already in many countries, and evidence of compliance provides the basis for deciding the suitability of such bodies for partnership with the United Nations system. Difficulties in that matter should not afford grounds for selecting arbitrarily determined entities or for unduly restricting the categories eligible for selection.

B. Need for new approaches

1. Ways of enriching the United Nations system by building productive partnerships with non-United Nations bodies

76. While the United Nations system can benefit by a dialogue with non-governmental bodies, it is not practicable to give such a multitude of entities participatory rights in the governing forums of the United Nations system. The decision makers in such forums must remain States, through their representatives. None the less, the process of such decision-making can be enriched by a dialogue with non-governmental entities since they are repositories of expert information and advice based on particular experience and they represent a wide spectrum of public commitment.

77. This was a feature of the UNCED process, where the non-governmental organization community - in particular, scientific and professional bodies - contributed greatly to the preparatory work of the Secretariat. In parallel, many Governments drew on national non-governmental organization expertise in their own preparations. The partnerships between the United Nations system and non-governmental entities should operate as a two-way relationship:

(a) The partnership should make a contribution to the United Nations system;

(b) The partnership should result in the development of an informed supportive community for whom the work of the United Nations has credibility. In large measure, decision-making by a system such as the United Nations must enjoy credibility in order to secure compliance.

78. Some non-governmental entities are already deeply involved in practical partnerships of this kind. Humanitarian relief organizations are closely associated with the United Nations in famine and disaster relief. Others are closely linked with work on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international legal instruments.

79. Partnerships can greatly benefit the non-governmental entities themselves in achieving their own missions. Their commitment is likely to increase if good links can be established with United Nations bodies, on a basis of real mutual benefit and support and if value and due credit are given to their contributions to the United Nations system.

80. Drawing on the practical experience of UNCED, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and other initiatives, the following conclusion can be reached:

(a) Partnerships between non-governmental entities (especially professional and representative ones) and national Governments can, by enhancing governmental knowledge and awareness, contribute in turn to the effectiveness of such meetings. The United Nations system should accordingly encourage Governments to develop machinery for utilizing that expertise. Any resistance to such linkages on the part of government departments is likely to wane as

confidence in the value of such input grows, and non-governmental entities concerned grow in public status;

(b) Direct links between non-governmental entities and the secretariats of the United Nations system could greatly assist the latter in the production of documents, analyses and action proposals;

(c) In some circumstances it could be most valuable for United Nations bodies to set up consultative forums for discussion and information exchange with the non-governmental community. Such forums would involve non-governmental entities - especially coalitions - with appropriate expertise;

(d) There is a particular role for major groups, in such areas as science, law, conservation, humanitarian aid, women's participation, youth and indigenous peoples, and such groups should be encouraged to develop their own capacity for partnership by consultative mechanisms and also by forming coalitions sharing collective interests in specific areas of the sustainable development process.

81. Such partnerships impose obligations on the non-governmental community, which must approach the relationship with genuine willingness to cooperate and exchange information and views.

2. Ways of promoting and drawing on practical and effective partnerships throughout society

82. The United Nations system should consider how it could catalyse and expand the participatory approach throughout the world and so ensure that citizens and all sectoral groups in society were involved in the process of sustainable development.

83. Awareness develops consciousness, which in turn leads to conviction, and this produces active leadership. In other words, as awareness spreads, so action expands.

3. Ways of ensuring a flexible, adaptive, practical and cost-effective approach

84. The United Nations system should engage in continuing dialogue with major non-governmental entities and groups, to ascertain how partnerships could be improved. The scientific community, in particular, has rich experience to contribute.

85. The United Nations system needs to review its links with the non-governmental community and consider how far these can be made more flexible and suited to the world after Rio. (The Economic and Social Council has established an open-ended group to evaluate such relationships.)

86. A questionnaire developed by one panel member suggests one mode of approach. Recent meetings (like the British Partnerships for Change Conference)

could be followed up. The Earth Negotiations Bulletin could also be used to canvass opinions.

87. The likely criteria for a successful approach by the United Nations system are the following:

(a) Flexibility. Relationships with the non-governmental entities should not be over-institutionalized or tied to one standard structure but should be able to adjust as issues arise and should be constructed by each part of the United Nations system according to its perceived needs;

(b) Practicality. The approach must be goal-oriented;

(c) Adaptability. The approach must recognize that sustainable development is an evolving concept, and the machinery must accordingly evolve with new understanding and experience;

(d) Cost-effectiveness. Account must be taken of the fact that the non-governmental network is highly self-motivated and involves many volunteers who are prepared to give knowledge, time and effort at a very low cost;

(e) Accountability. The United Nations system should select partners with defined constitutions, legal status, and a membership or constituency to whom their officers are accountable.

88. As a final suggestion, models of partnership might be developed in particular locations where there is evidence of willing cooperation.

4. Making the United Nations more open to its partners

89. Many of the contributions destined by non-governmental entities for consideration in the United Nations system are channelled through their Governments, but not all Governments are receptive to ideas from non-governmental entities. The Commission on Sustainable Development could urge such action upon them.

90. Formal relations between the United Nations and the non-governmental community are governed by a 25-year-old resolution defining "consultative status". The adequacy of this definition and possible ways in which it might be changed are under examination.

91. In building confidence among non-governmental entities, it is necessary for the United Nations system to demonstrate that it attaches appropriate value to what they say. An open relationship will greatly enhance confidence. Secretariats of United Nations bodies can go a considerable way towards this goal by establishing or refining their own consultative mechanisms.

92. An increasing number of major non-governmental entities are inviting United Nations participation in their governing bodies and major conferences. Such United Nations participation is an important means of promoting a more open and reciprocal relationship.

5. How to publicize the work of the United Nations

93. The United Nations system can play an important part in enhancing the lives of rural and urban communities everywhere. Its role can be brought home by employing communications modes suited to local cultural conditions. There is a variety of ways in which this can be done.

94. The United Nations produces much first-class documentary film material, which fails to receive wide screening because of lack of sponsorship, lack of "personalities" connected with it, aversion to self-publicity or a lack of enthusiasm for organizational publicity. An earnest effort should be made, on a systematic and regular basis, to find sponsors and establish a "sponsorship bank" which would support the distribution of such films. The approach of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations provides an appropriate occasion for organizing such publicity. The view of the Secretary-General that this publicity should emphasize the major role of the United Nations in promoting sustainable development is strongly supported.

95. The forthcoming opportunities for publicity should be utilized by all United Nations bodies. UNDP in particular should be able to provide some absorbing accounts of sustainable development on the ground. All United Nations bodies should be urged to suggest 20 good stories telling key messages about the work of the United Nations - all with a human, on-the-ground angle, rather than dealing with Conferences. The United Nations Joint Information Committee should be urged to develop a more cooperative approach to promote the United Nations system as a whole.

96. With the development of good partnerships, non-governmental entities themselves can be expected to provide some success stories linked to local communities and cultures.

97. Non-governmental entities can also make an active and highly significant contribution by impressing upon society the need to accept changes in taxation and subsidy systems and adaptations in life styles in order to facilitate sustainable development.

C. Recommendations

98. Governments should enhance their ability to contribute to United Nations activities by developing partnerships with their own non-governmental communities.

99. In the course of its review of its relationships with non-governmental entities, as defined by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1296 (XLIV), the United Nations should enhance its capacity to build effective partnerships with non-governmental entities and to reflect their views in its documents.

100. The United Nations and its agencies should:

(a) Strengthen their linkages with appropriate intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental entities in order to draw upon their expertise;

(b) Seek to enhance national action by developing and promulgating models for partnership, based on case-studies of success;

(c) Improve the effectiveness of consultative processes with non-governmental entities, especially through the establishment of consultative forums;

(d) Develop and promulgate models for partnership based on success, emphasizing the need for flexibility, practicality, adaptability, cost-effectiveness and accountability;

(e) Facilitate the process of sustainable development by coordinating the development of indicators and strategies for sustainability;

(f) Promote and support training programmes led by partner institutions;

(g) Encourage the promotion of awareness down to the grass-roots level and, especially through UNDP, support capacity-building;

(h) Encourage the establishment of electronic information networks as effective ways of publicizing the work being done and as a means for promoting cooperative action.

101. The non-governmental organization community should enhance its own capacity to contribute to partnerships with United Nations bodies by, inter alia, organizing themselves into representative coalitions and by inviting United Nations participation in their activities.

102. The Commission on Sustainable Development should evaluate national reports against models of effective sustainable development and suggest avenues of possible improvement to Governments, including benefits that may come by improvement in partnerships.

103. The United Nations should make the best of its publicity material to promote its role in sustainable development and project a more integrated image of its work. It should seek partnerships with potential commercial sponsors to ensure better distribution and with non-governmental entities which can do a great deal to publicize and promote the work of the United Nations.

V. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE WORK

104. The Board held extensive deliberations on its future work programme, including a full exchange of views with the Secretary-General, who requested the assistance of the Board in changing the perception of the general public that the United Nations was only about peace-keeping. He emphasized that the work of the organization on economic, social and environmental issues, in fact, absorbed the larger part of its regularly budgeted resources. The Board decided to focus preparations for its third session (17-21 October 1994) through three panels on

the themes outlined below. It agreed upon certain elements that ought to be considered by each panel but made it clear that the panels would be free to develop those themes in a broad context and to organize their work in a flexible way. The panels were expected to make use of materials emanating from the work of other bodies, to consult experts and organizations known to them, as appropriate, and to request an early reaction from the other members of the Board to a brief formulation of their anticipated findings.

A. Linkages between economic, social and political development in a changing world

105. Topics to be considered would include the flexibility of ecologically sustainable food production in countries experiencing rapid population growth and linkages to migration, the need for food aid, and the ability of some countries to respect commitments made in the convention on biodiversity; trade and environment; and linkages between trade and food security. The Board decided to convene a panel on these issues, composed of Emil Salim and Klaus Schwab (Co-chairpersons), Celso Lafer, Maria de los Angeles Moreno, Edouard Saouma and Mostafa Tolba.

B. Capacity-building: value-based education for sustainability

106. Among the issues which might be taken up under this heading were the inculcation of values conducive to sustainable development, the relative importance of developing educational materials for the different stages of formal education; the importance of networks for the exchange of information; and the issue of empowering groups which are the target beneficiaries of capacity-building programmes. The Board decided to convene a panel on these issues, comprising Tommy Koh and Stephan Schmidheiny (Co-chairpersons), Saburo Kawai, Bola Kuforiji-Olubi, Adele Simmons, Maurice Strong and Qu Geping.

C. Concrete ways of forging alliances

107. The Board proposed to continue to elaborate on this theme. Board members were encouraged to circulate to non-governmental entities, representatives of state and local governments, and individuals known to them, a questionnaire formulated by the Board (see annex I). In doing so, members of the Board were requested to attach special importance to contacts with organizations, including non-governmental organizations enjoying consultative status with the United Nations, representing major groups, such as business, labour, consumers, and state and local levels of government. To prepare its work on this matter for the third session of the Board, a panel was constituted with the following members: Jacques Cousteau and R. S. Pathak (Co-chairpersons), Martin Holdgate, Valentin Koptyug, Laura Novoa, Rita Levi Montalcini.

108. The Board decided that the panels would meet from 17 to 18 October 1994 immediately before the plenary session of the Board (19-21 October). Each member of the Board was invited to be associated with one of the three panels;

the Co-chairpersons, Bernard Chidzero and Brigitta Dahl, would rotate among the panels during their deliberations.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

109. The second session of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development was held at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 22 March 1994. Panel meetings were held on 17 and 18 March, and the plenary session of the Board was held on 21 and 22 March. Seventeen members of the Board attended: Bernard Chidzero, Brigitta Dahl, Martin Holdgate, Saburo Kawai, Tommy Koh, Valentin Koptyug, Bola Kuforiji-Olubi, Celso Lafer, Laura Novoa, R. S. Pathak, Qu Geping, Emil Salim, Edouard Saouma, Stephan Schmidheiny, Klaus Schwab, Adele Simmons and Mostafa Tolba. Four members were unable to attend: Jacques Cousteau, Rita Levi Montalcini, Maria de los Angeles Moreno, and Maurice Strong.

110. The officers elected at the first session for the term ending on 30 June 1995 were Bernard Chidzero and Brigitta Dahl (Co-chairpersons) and Martin Holdgate (Rapporteur).

111. The plenary was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General addressed the Board and held a dialogue with them on 22 March 1994.

112. Preparations for the plenary session were carried out by the three panels of the Board, each of which had prepared intra-sessionally by means of correspondence among its members, with the Secretariat, and, in some cases, with experts known to the members themselves. The panel on linkages between economic, social and political development in a changing world comprised Emil Salim and Klaus Schwab (Co-chairpersons), Celso Lafer, and Mostafa Tolba. The panel on new approaches to finance and technology comprised Tommy Koh and Stephan Schmidheiny (Co-chairpersons), Saburo Kawai, Bola Kuforiji-Olubi, Adele Simmons, and Maurice Strong. The panel on the establishment of new partnerships between the United Nations system and other non-governmental entities comprised Jacques Cousteau and R. S. Pathak (Co-chairpersons), Martin Holdgate, Valentin Koptyug and Laura Novoa.

113. Substantive services for the session were provided by the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

Notes

1/ The term environmentally "sound" technology is a relative concept. The performance and environmental impact of technology may vary depending on the context of its application. It includes "process and product" technologies that generate low waste or use waste as a product for other processes. It may also include "end of pipe" technologies for waste treatment and minimization. The term "environmentally sound" also means "environmentally safe and sound".

2/ Partnerships are relationships entered into for a wide range of purposes, including information exchange, definition of goals and actions in a particular field, or joint action for the achievement of a common purpose. In the present case the common purpose is sustainable development.

3/ A non-governmental entity (the term is used in preference to "non-State actors" and "non-governmental organizations") is an organization or group outside national Government and its agencies. Such entities include scientific, economic, environmental and humanitarian organizations and also local and municipal authorities, labour organizations and business. They have constitutions, mission statements, action plans and formal administrative and financial processes.

Annex I

QUESTIONNAIRE ON PARTNERSHIP

Please complete the questionnaire below, after having read chapter IV, "Establishment of new partnerships between the United Nations system and non-governmental entities", of the report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development on its second session.

1. Do you believe that partnerships or alliances between the United Nations system and entities active in the field of sustainable development would be an effective mechanism for assisting in the implementation of Agenda 21?

2. If the answer above is affirmative, what types of alliance do you consider likely to be most useful? Please describe them. As a guideline, consider the following check-list and indicate the level of usefulness you attach to each option:

(a) National forums/consultative mechanism/task forces that would enhance the input by your Government to the Commission on Sustainable Development:

not useful/useful/very useful

(b) International task force meetings on particular aspects of sustainable development, convened by the secretariats of United Nations bodies and enhancing their preparation of analyses and proposals for intergovernmental consideration:

not useful/useful/very useful

(c) Establishment by United Nations bodies of formal consultative forums or other machinery for contact with the non-governmental sector:

not useful/useful/very useful

(d) If (c) is to be supported, the consultative machinery should be open to all non-governmental organizations involving major and representative groupings in a particular area - e.g., law, local government, labour, humanitarian aid, conservation, science:

not useful/useful/very useful

(e) Opening of intergovernmental meetings in the United Nations system to non-governmental representatives as full participants:

not useful/useful/very useful

(f) More direct involvement of the United Nations system through one or more of its specialized bodies in conferences/task forces sponsored by major non-governmental organizations or Governments:

not useful/useful/very useful

(g) Development by the United Nations system of machinery for training of individuals from national Governments and the non-governmental organizations community so that they can contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21:

not useful/useful/very useful

(h) Direct participation by representatives of permanent United Nations bodies in initiatives undertaken by non-governmental organizations to promote on-the-ground action for the protection, conservation, clean-up or sustainable development of the environment:

not useful/useful/very useful

(i) Greater support by United Nations bodies of on-the-ground action for sustainable development by non-governmental organizations:

not useful/useful/very useful

(j) Direct participation by representatives of United Nations bodies in intergovernmental agreements (including bilateral agreements) designed to achieve sustainable development, thereby lending the visible support of the United Nations to such agreements:

not useful/useful/very useful

(k) Direct participation of relevant United Nations bodies in agreements between international private associations in order to give them support and orientation under the sustainable development principle:

not useful/useful/very useful

3. Please add any other comments you have on the way partnerships should be developed and return this questionnaire to:

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Report of the first session of the Board.

4. Matters arising, not covered under other items.

5. New approaches to environmentally sound technology.

6. Establishment of new partnerships between the United Nations system and non-governmental entities.

7. Linkages between economic, social and political development in a changing world.

8. Consideration of opportunities for the Board to contribute to the work of the United Nations.

9. Organization of the work of the Board.

10. Adoption of the report of the Board on its second session.

Annex III

REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY BOARD ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON ITS FIRST SESSION

1. The High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development held its first (organizational) session at United Nations Headquarters, New York on 13 and 14 September 1993. The Secretary-General met with the Board on 14 September. Eighteen members of the Board attended: Bernard Chidzero, Jacques Cousteau, Brigitta Dahl, Martin Holdgate, Saburo Kawai, Tommy Koh, Valentin Koptyug, Bola Kuforiji-Olubi, Celso Lafer, Rita Levi Montalcini, Laura Novoa, R. S. Pathak, Qu Geping, Emil Salim, Stephan Schmidheiny, Klaus Schwab, Maurice Strong and Mostafa Tolba. Two members were unable to attend: Adele Simmons and Maria de los Angeles Moreno.

A. Election of Officers

2. The Board unanimously elected Bernard Chidzero as the Chair of the Board, Brigitta Dahl as the Vice-Chair and Martin Holdgate as the Rapporteur.

B. Terms of reference of the Board

3. The Board agreed on the following points:

(a) With regard to terms of reference (1), (2) and (3) (see appendix), the results of the Board's discussions should be addressed primarily to the Secretary-General to whom it had direct reporting responsibility and was directly accountable;

(b) When the Board felt the need to address intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly, it would so advise the Secretary-General and request him to convey its views/recommendations to such bodies;

(c) With regard to term of reference (4), it was important for the Board to address, through the Secretary-General, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, which were represented on the Administrative Committee on Coordination and were especially important in pursuing the goals of the Commission on Sustainable Development and sustainable development in general;

(d) Requests from intergovernmental bodies, including the Committee on Sustainable Development, for advice from the Board would be channelled through the Secretary-General;

(e) Terms of reference (5) and (6) were both innovative and very important. They were particularly significant in light of the broadly participatory nature of the Rio process which, it was felt, needed to be

continued and enhanced as a key element to the successful implementation of Agenda 21 - the achievement of sustainable development goals in general;

(f) In relation to term of reference (6), in particular, the Board would explore the possible development of a programme of measures aimed at keeping alive the Rio spirit, promoting better understanding of the Rio Agenda and advancing sustainable development. Members also considered that it would be incumbent on each of them to be "pro-active" in their respective constituencies and through their own professional activities. When the Board has agreed on an issue, members can speak in furtherance of the Board's position. When there is no common position, they will clearly speak as individuals guided by the Board's general approach;

(g) Generally, optimal use of the Board's capacity to assist the Secretary-General and the United Nations would require, on its part, not only a degree of flexibility in operating within its terms of reference but also creativity, originality and a forward-looking approach.

C. Future work of the Board

4. After extensive discussions, and guided especially by the request of the Secretary-General for help in demonstrating the United Nations concern to promote sound and sustainable economic and social development, the Board decided to focus its efforts initially on three broad themes:

(a) Linkages between economic, social and political development in a changing world;

(b) New approaches to finance and technology;

(c) Establishment of new partnerships between the United Nations system and other bodies active in the field of sustainable development.

5. The Board agreed to establish panels of its members on each of the themes. It indicated a wide range of topics that might be considered by each panel, while making it clear that the panels would be expected to focus their analysis on one or two key elements, chosen by them. The panels would work by electronic and other communication, would consider the various studies and initiatives being undertaken by other bodies, would consult experts and organizations known to them, when appropriate, and would report to meetings of the Board.

Panel A. Linkages between economic, social and political development in a changing world

Co-Chairs: Klaus Schwab and Emil Salim

Panel members: Mostafa Tolba and Celso Lafer

Topics to be considered would include the fundamental relationship between environment, development, poverty and security; the social and cultural

dimensions of sustainable development (including equity between groups and generations, and the need to empower communities); the need for new global economic and trading systems; the need for quantifiable and measurable indicators of sustainable development; and the crucial role of political development, democratization and dependable government.

Panel B: New approaches to finance and technology

Co-Chairs: Stephan Schmidheiny and Tommy Koh

Panel members: Bola Kuforiji-Olubi, Maurice Strong, Saburo Kawai

Topics to be considered would include innovative methods of financing and securing resource and technology transfer; the importance of developing and sharing new technology (especially "eco-efficient" processes); and the development of new modes of capacity-building. The aim was to avoid the damage caused by inappropriate technology transfer. South/South and South/North sharing of experience would be of particular value.

Panel C: Establishment of new partnerships between the United Nations system and other non-State actors

Co-Chairs: Jacques Cousteau and R. S. Pathak

Panel members: Laura Novoa, Valentin Koptyug and Martin Holdgate

The panel would address the Secretary-General's concern that the contribution of the United Nations to economic and social development was neither widely known nor properly understood. Topics to be considered would include the need to find ways of enriching the United Nations system by building productive partnerships with non-United Nations bodies; the need to make the United Nations more open to its partners; the need to promote and draw on practical and effective partnerships throughout society; how to publicize the work of the United Nations better; and how to ensure a flexible, adaptive, practical and cost-effective approach.

D. Methods and organization of work

6. The Board agreed that in order to maintain momentum, not more than six months should elapse between the first and second meetings. The panels would work by correspondence during the interval. Resource and time constraints led the Board to decide that its second meeting, scheduled for 17-22 March 1994, would be in two parts: panel meetings on 17 and 18 March; the meeting of the Board on 21 and 22 March. The intervening weekend would be used to prepare panel reports. This timetable would allow for a report to be provided through the Secretary-General to the Commission on Sustainable Development for its meeting in May.

Appendix

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To give broad consideration to issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21, taking into account the thematic multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to provide expert advice in that regard to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. a/

2. To provide high-level advice, proposals and recommendations on issues and themes to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission's high-level meetings. b/

3. To bring to the attention of the Secretary-General and, through him, to that of relevant intergovernmental bodies emerging problems related to sustainable development and possible ways and means for resolving them. b/

4. To provide the Secretary-General and, through him, the Administrative Committee on Coordination with its views on the expectations and concerns of major constituencies and groups on sustainable development issues and on the contribution of the United Nations system in addressing those issues. b/

5. To contribute to the building of partnerships between the United Nations and the scientific, business and academic communities and major non-governmental groups. b/

6. To promote knowledge and understanding of and mobilize support for United Nations activities in the area of environment and development throughout the constituencies and groups represented by its members. b/

Notes

a/ General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, para. 29.

b/ See "High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development: report of the Secretary-General" (E/1993/15/Rev.1, 27 April 1993), para. 6.

Annex IV

CURRICULA VITAE

Chairman: Bernard Chidzero (Zimbabwe). Senior Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development. Other posts held include Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD; Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme. Received professional education in Canada and United Kingdom (Economics).

Vice-Chairperson: Brigitta Dahl (Sweden). Member of Parliament. Member, Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party. Member, Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs. Past posts include Minister of Environment (1990-1991), Minister of Environment and Energy (1986-1990), Minister of Energy (1982-1986). Received professional education in Sweden (History and Political Science).

Rapporteur: Martin Holdgate (United Kingdom). President, Zoological Society of London. Past posts include Director General, World Conservation Union (IUCN) (1988-1994); Chief Environment Scientist and Deputy Secretary, Environment Protection, Department of Environment (United Kingdom) (1976-1988); President, Governing Council, UNEP (1983-1984). Received professional education in the United Kingdom (Zoology). Author of A Perspective of Environmental Pollution (1979) and joint editor of two major UNEP volumes on the state of the world environment, 1972-1982 and 1972-1992.

Members:

Jacques Yves Cousteau (France). Chairman, Council on the Rights of Future Generations; President, the Cousteau Society. Past posts include Director of the Musée océanographique. Received professional education in France (Naval Science and Ocean Ecology). Member, Académie Française. Recipient of numerous awards and honorary degrees for work on the environment. Director of three feature films on oceans. Author or co-author of more than 50 books, the most recent of which is Jacques Cousteau/Whales (1988).

Saburo Kawai (Japan). Chairman and President, International Development Centre of Japan. Member, Organizing Committee, Earth Council. Past posts include President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation; Board member, Stockholm Environment Institute; Vice-Chairman and President, Keizai Doyukai. Received professional education in Japan and the United States (Law and Economics).

Tommy Koh (Singapore). Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Past posts include Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Ambassador to the United States and Mexico; High Commissioner to Canada; Professor and Dean, Faculty of Law, Singapore University; President, Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea; Chairman, Preparatory Committee for and Main Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Received professional education in Singapore, the United States (Law) and the United Kingdom. Author of several articles on law of the sea, international relations, environment and development, United Nations and negotiations.

Valentin Koptyug (Russian Federation). Director, Institute of Organic Chemistry (Novosibirsk). President, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences. Past posts include Rector, Novosibirsk State University; Professor (Chair) of Organic Chemistry. Received professional education in the former USSR (Chemistry). Author of numerous scientific papers and monographs in the fields of organic chemistry and general problems of the environment; founded the journal Chemistry for Sustainable Development (1993).

Bola Kuforiji-Olubi (Nigeria). Honourable Secretary of Commerce and Tourism, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Tourism; Chairperson, Business Council for Sustainable Development, Nigeria.

Carlos Lafer (Brazil). Professor and Department Head, Public International Law and Jurisprudence, University of São Paulo. Board member, Metal Leve S/A Industria e Comercio. Past posts include Minister for Foreign Affairs; Head of Brazilian delegation to the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology. Expert adviser in the area of science and technology. Received professional education in Brazil and the United States (Law and Political Science). Author of many books and articles in the area of international economic law, international relations, jurisprudence and political theory.

Rita Levi Montalcini (Italy). Super-expert, Institute of Neurobiology, National Research Council (CNR). Past posts include Director, Cellular Biology Laboratory (CNR). Professor of Neurobiology, Institute of Biology, Washington University. Received professional education in Italy (neurobiology). Received Nobel Prize in Medicine/Physiology and numerous honorary degrees. Author of numerous monographs in the field of neurobiology.

Maria De Los Angeles Moreno (Mexico). Member of Congress. Past posts include Subsecretary of Evaluation, Secretariat of Programming and Budgeting; Subdirector of Planning, Division of Employment, UCECA; Subdirector of Studies on Income Distribution, Secretariat of Labour. Received professional education in Mexico and the Netherlands (Socio-economic Planning). Author of Women in the Mexican Economy (1966).

Laura Novoa (Chile). President, PARTICIPA. General Counsel and member of Executive Committee, member of the law firm Philippi, Yrarrazaval, Pulido and Brunner (banking, foreign investment, mining, corporate law); member, Comision Verdad Reconciliation. Received professional education in Chile and the United States (Law).

R. S. Pathak (India). Chairman, Indian National Steering Committee in Leadership in Environment and Development Programmes; Editor-in-Chief, Indian Journal of International Law. Past posts include Judge, International Court of Justice at The Hague; Judge, Supreme Court of India; Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India; Chief Justice, Himachal Pradesh High Court. Received professional education (Law) in India. Author of many research papers on international law, the law of the sea and other subjects, including Environmental Change and International Law: New Challenges and Dimension (1993).

Qu Geping (China). Chairman, Environmental Protection Committee, National Peoples' Congress. Past posts include Vice-Chairman, Environmental Protection Commission, State Council Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, China. Head of China's Mission to UNEP. Received professional education (Engineering) in China and the United Kingdom. Author of numerous publications on environmental issues, including China's Environment and Development (1993); Studies on Environmental Services in China.

Emil Salim (Indonesia). Minister of State for Population and the Environment. Past posts include Minister of State for Development Supervision and the Environment; President, Governing Council of UNEP; Professor in Economics, University of Indonesia. Received professional education in Indonesia and the United States (Economics). J. Paul Getty award (United States World Wild Life Fund). Author of Pemerataan Pendapatan and Perencanaan (1978); Pembangunan Berwawasan (1986).

Edouard Saouma (Lebanon). Former Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Past posts include Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestries (1970). Received professional education in Lebanon and France (Agronomy). Recipient of numerous awards and honorary degrees for his work in agriculture.

Stephan Schmidheiny (Switzerland). Chairman of the Board, ANOVA Holding Ltd., UNOTEC Holding Ltd., NUEVA Holding Ltd. (a family-owned multinational investment group); Board member, ABB Asea Brown Boveri, SMH Swiss Corporation for Microelectronics and Watchmaking Industries, Union Bank of Switzerland and Nestle. Founder and Chairman, Business Council on Sustainable Development. Received professional education in Switzerland and Italy (Law). Author of Changing Course: A Global Business Perspective on Development and the Environment (1992).

Klaus Schwab (Germany). President of the Board, World Economic Forum Foundation; Professor of Business, University of Geneva. Past posts include General Manager, Escher WYSS, S. A.; Professor, International Management Institute. Received professional education in Switzerland (Engineering and Economics). Author of five books and numerous articles on global competitiveness and other issues.

Adele Simmons (United States). President, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Member of the President's Commission on Environmental Quality; Member of the Boards of Directors, First Chicago Corporation and the Marsh Mclennon Companies. Past posts include President, Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts. Received professional education in the United States and United Kingdom (Political Science). Recipient of numerous honorary degrees. Author and co-author of numerous articles on Africa, women, education and public policy, including Modern Mauritius (1982) and Exploitation from 9 to 5: the Twentieth Century Fund Task Force Report on Working Women (1971).

Maurice Strong (Canada). Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Hydro. Past posts include Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; Under-Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator, the United

Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa; Director, United Nations Environment Programme; President and Chief Executive Officer, Petro-Canada; Chairman, Board of Governors, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. Received professional education in Canada (Business). Recipient of numerous awards and honorary doctorates.

Mostafa Tolba (Egypt). Professor, Faculty of Science, Cairo University. President, ECOPAST, Centre for Environment and Cultural Heritage, Washington, D.C.; President, International Centre for Environment and Development. Past posts include Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Head, Egyptian delegation to the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment (1972). Received professional education in Egypt and the United Kingdom (Botany). Author of numerous papers on plant diseases, anti-fungal substances and physiology of micro-organisms and on the environment, including Sustainable Development: Constraints and Opportunities (1987).